

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 291200Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 122

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1150

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REPLY TO MINARIK CHARGES

1. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION
OF ADVISABILITY OF OFFICIAL USG DEMARCHON MINARIK CAMPAIGN.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, SINCE "CAPTAIN" MINARIK WAS SURFACED
IN LATE JANUARY AS CZECHOSLOVAK INTELLIGENCE OPERATIVE WHO
WORKED FOR RFE, THE CAMPAIGN FEATURING HIS TESTIMONY HAS CONTINUED
AT LOUD LEVEL. A NEW AND OBJECTIONABLE ARTICLE BY JIRI SVOBODA,
"HEROES OF TODAY." APPEARS IN RUDE PRAVO FOR APRIL 24 (TEXT
POUCHED EUR/EE).

3. THIS CAMPAIGN HAS HAD TWO FACES. FIRST IN COORDINATION WITH
USSR AND OTHER EE REGIMES, GOC HAS DIRECTED ATTACK AGAINST RFE
ITSELF. (USG HAS COUNTERED THIS ATTACK INFORMALLY ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS, OF COURSE.) SECOND, GOC HAS USED MINARIK AS A
WEAPON AGAINST SOME CZECHOSLOVAK DISSIDENTS, EVEN INCLUDING
DUBCEK HIMSELF, BY ACCUSING THEM OF BEING IN THE PAY OF RFE
AND THE CIA. IT SHOULD BE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT DUSKO
DODER OF WASHPOST WAS GRANTED INTERVIEW WITH MINARIK AND WROTE
STORY IN MARCH STATING PLAINLY THAT MINARIK OFFERED NO
PROOF OF THESE ALLEGATIONS.

4. NEVERTHELESS THE ALLEGATIONS CONTINUE, AND IN RUDE PRAVO
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ARTICLE CITED ABOVE SVOBODA SAYS: "THE BEST ANSWER TO DOUBTS

WHETHER ALL THAT WAS POSSIBLE AND REALLY HAPPENED AS CAPTAIN MINARIK DESCRIBED IT IN HIS APPEARANCES IS THE REACTION FROM THE PLACES WHERE HE WORKED FOR MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS. UNABLE TO DENY ANY PART OF PAVEL MINARIK'S REVELATIONS, THEY DO NOT ARGUE, DO NOT COUNTER FACTS WITH FACTS, ONLY GET ANGRY, SLANDER AND ASSAIL."

5. ASIDE FROM THE ATTACKS ON RFE ITSELF, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT ALLEGATIONS ABOUT DUBCEK AND OTHERS FROM THE 1968 ERA BEING IN THE PAY OF THE USG, IF UNANSWERED, MAY ACQUIRE SOME BELIEVABILITY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. SINCE THE ACCUSATIONS ARE BLATANTLY FALSE, AND TIE IN WITH THE OLD SOVIET ATTEMPT TO ASSOCIATE US WITH THE PRAGUE SPRING OF 1968, WE WONDER IF WE WOULD NOT BE WELL ADVISED TO ANSWER OFFICIALLY.

6. THE EMBASSY HAS IN MIND A POSSIBLE NOTE, DELIVERED EITHER IN PRAGUE OR WASHINGTON, WHICH WOULD HAVE AS MAIN POINT A REFUTATION OF CHARGES THAT USG HAS PAID ANY 1968 FIGURES FOR WORK FOR RFE (PROBABLY CITING DODER'S STORY AS ONE BIT OF EVIDENCE). AT SAME TIME, OTHER MISSTATEMENTS COULD BE DENIED, SUCH AS THAT CIA IS RUNNING RFE, AND POINT COULD BE MADE AGAIN THAT JAMMING OF RFE IS CONTRARY TO HELSINKI.

7. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE EXCELLENT REASONS FOR NOT GOING THROUGH THIS KIND OF DEMARCH AT THIS TIME, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF EXCHANGE OF NEW AMBASSADORS. HOWEVER, EMBASSY SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT CONSIDER DEMARCH OF THE TYPE PROPOSED, IN ORDER TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.
PERRY

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